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of the whole river system. It is hoped to learn by these means in which direction work may most usefully be done in order to attack the many problems that still await solution.

The book gives a very detailed description of the principal drainage basins, viz.: first, the plateau of the equatorial lakes, which has an average altitude of about 1,300 to 1,500 meters, besides the mountain range of Ruwenzori and the volcanic mass of Elgon, which respectively rise about 5,000 and 2,000 meters higher; second, the water-shed, about 800–900 meters above sea-level, which separates the Bahr-el-Ghazal basin from those of the Congo and Lake Chad; third, the Abyssinian table-land, which is more than 2,000 meters above sea-level; and fourth, the vast tract of country, less than 500 meters in altitude, which extends from the upper reaches of the Bahr-el-Arab in Kordofan and Gondokoro on the Bahr-el-Jebel to the Mediterranean.

The topics are methodically arranged, and the index makes it easy to refer to all places and kinds of information. The book may long be the most complete and best source of information on everything that pertains to the geography and geology of the Nile basin. In a work so crowded with facts it is impossible to give much of an idea in detail of the contents. We will quote, however, this brief paragraph on the geology of the southern part of the Nile basin:

> It is a plateau lying some 1,500 meters above sea-level, and composed of gneiss, quartzite, and schists. The central portion is occupied by Lake Victoria, while the deep fault-valley in which Lakes Albert Edward and Albert lie forms the western portion. Much movement has taken place comparatively recently, and blocks of the plateau have been raised, lowered, or tilted, so that the drainage follows the depressions so formed. As yet the rivers have had no time to deposit or erode sufficiently to give a regular grade to their beds, so that marshes and water-logged depressions still alternate with reaches in which the fall is considerable, and the flow therefore rapid.

Numerous tables and maps illustrate especially the meteorology and geology of the different parts of the basin. It is surprising that in a region which has been so little known as the Egyptian Sudan, Captain Lyons should have been able to bring together such a vast number of statistics and valuable observations. The work is certain to rank very high as a scientific, geographical treatise. The metric system is employed throughout, with conversion tables for those who are not familiar with it; but it is remarkable that nearly all compilers of conversion tables, including Captain Lyons, fail to give the equivalent of square kilometers in square miles. American and British geographers who use maps made in continental Europe have frequent occasion to convert square kilometers into square miles or *vice versa*, and often they have vainly appealed to conversion tables to shorten their labours.

Praktische Suaheli-Grammatik. Nebst einem Deutsch-Suaheli wörterverzeichniss. Von Prof. Dr. C. Velten. Zweite vermehrte Auflage, small 8vo, x and 388 pp. Wilhelm Baensch, Berlin, 1905. (Price, 4 Marks.)

Ki-Suaheli is the *lingua franca* in the whole of eastern tropical Africa, and is useful even in large parts of the Congo basin. The enterprises of white men have become so numerous in those regions that acquaintance with the language is increasingly important. The result is that Ki-Suaheli is now taught in Europe, and the facilities in Germany and in the Government schools of East Africa for studying it are especially excellent. This grammar and vocabulary are adapted both for school use and for self-instruction. Naturally, the book is intended, above all, to serve practical needs; and this fact is kept in view in grammar, exercises, and vocabulary.